

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

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Please replace paragraph [0057] on page ²²~~23~~ of Applicant's specification with the following paragraph:

For second embodiments of the present invention, the groups of data values stored in corresponding array segments of each CAM block 602A and/or 602B are not ordered according to priority. Thus, although each array segment stores data values that are assigned the same priority PRTY, any array segment can be assigned any priority. For example, FIG. 9 shows a portion of a CAM device 900 that is a modified embodiment of CAM device 600 of FIG. 6. CAM portion 900 is shown to include a segmented CAM array 902, a segmented block priority encoder and match flag circuit 904, and a priority circuit 906. CAM array 902 includes a plurality of array segments 903(1)-903(m), each including any number of rows of CAM cells for storing data values that have the same priority. The architecture and segmenting of CAM array 902 is similar to that described above with respect to CAM array 603 of CAM device 600, and are thus not described in detail again.